

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

EUR-25 ACDA-19 GAC-01 RSR-01 /125 W
----- 040128

R 280719 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8567

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1279

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF NEW ZEALAND DEFENSE MINISTER

1. NEW ZEALAND DEFENSE MINISTER FAULKNER, ACCOMPANIED BY PERMANENT SECRETARY ROBERTSON, AND CHIEF OF THE DEFENSE STAFF WEBB, VISITED SINGAPORE FROM MARCH 17 TO 21. HE SPENT SOME TIME WITH THE ANZUK NEW ZEALAND CONTINGENT AND MET WITH GOS OFFICIALS. NO APPOINTMENT WAS REQUESTED WITH PRIME MINISTER LEE. HE DID HAVE USEFUL SESSIONS WITH DEFENSE MINISTER GOH AND FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM, DURING WHICH FAULKNER REITERATED THE GNZ'S CONTINUED INTEREST IN THE REGION, IN ANZUK AND THE FPDA. THE NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION STATES THAT THERE WAS NOTHING UNUSUAL IN THESE EXCHANGES.
 2. WHEN TALK TURNED TO SEATO'S FUTURE THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE THAT MIGHT DISTURB THAILAND. THE SITUATION IN THAILAND CAN BE CONSIDERED HOPEFUL PROVIDED THE THAIS ARE BOLSTERED AND SUPPORTED.
 3. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF MILITARY TRAINING FOR SINGAPORE'S FORCES, AND ASSIGNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND MILITARY ADVISORS. PERHAPS BECAUSE OCCASIONALLY THERE ARE
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STORIES THAT SOME ANZUK MILITARY ADVISORS (LARGELY
BRITISH) ARE NOT ENTIRELY WELCOMED BY SOME ELEMENTS OF THE
SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES, DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS MADE
IT CLEAR THAT NEW ZEALAND MILITARY ADVISORS WERE MOST
WELCOME, AND INDEED THAT MORE WERE DESIRED.
CRONK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GDS
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WELLINGTON
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